

A TRUE

RELATION

of a most Dismal

ACCIDENT,

that happened in the

STRAND,

The 14th of this Instant *May*, 1686. By the fall of the *Bull-Inn*, and part of another adjacent House; together with the Number of the Persons Kill'd, and those that were taken out alive amongst the Ruins thereof, which in all, are to the Number of Fifteen Persons.

Amongst the various means ordained to bring us to our Graves, that of sudden Death is one of the most Deplorable, and possibly a sadder Scene of that kind has not been, than this following Relation will testify

Mr. *Jonathan Toth*, Master of the *Bull-Inn* in the *Strand*, over against *Ivy-Bridge*, had been in some late Apprehensions of the weakness of his House, especially of that part of it next the Street, and had accordingly been advised to prevent the falling of it; more particularly the very Morning of this unfortunate Accident, when happening to be about five of the Clock, a Carpenter that had some business in a Yard near his House, came to him, and assured him that his House was sinking, and that it would fall in some very little time. Hereupon, he immediately sent some Workmen (with all speed) to the Water-side to fetch Props, such as we see daily made use of for the supporting of Houses; but, alas, this ill-timed Endeavour came too late, for before their Return, the Fatal Ruin came: Nevertheless, the Landlord's Fears increasing, he thought it not prudent to wait the coming back of the Workmen; but being solicitous for the Lives both of his Guests and Family, he first called up his Chamberlain

berlain, and bad him Alarme his Lodgers with the Danger they were in, and endeavour to raise them, to prevent that Mischief that threatened.

The Persons that Lodged in that Front part of his House were about Thirteen, all Men, some but newly came thither, and others that had Lodged there longer. The Chamberlain obey'd his Master's Order, and instantly ran, up to each Persons Door to awaken them, and gave them all notice of the Danger they were in: But he had scarce finished his Message and returned to the Stair-case; when the whole Front of the House fell down together, with part of an adjoining Front of the next House; infomuch, that few or none reaped any Benefit by the Warning given, but all fell with it, scarce one escaping being Buried in the Ruins.

Divers are the Reports of the Number, both of the Persons Killed and Wounded; but this Relation is grounded upon a firmer Authority than flying Fame, that but too often errs in Accidents of this kind, being taken from a Servant of the House, and an Eye-witness to this miserable Disaster.. The Persons that were took up Dead, are one *John Martin*, who had Rented the Wine-Celler of the *Inn*, and a Coachman that came up out of the Country the day before; also the Child and Maid-servant of Mr. *Pullen* Oylman, next Door to the *Bull-Inn*. The Persons taken up alive, but very much Wounded, are Seven, the Coachman to the Lady *Waller*, Two Servants of Sir *John Bickerstaff*, a Souldier, and Three other Servants of other Gentlemen. The Coachman who escaped with only his Legs broken, or very much bruised, is supposed may Recover, the others are in much greater danger of Death, as being Bruised more upon their Vital parts, tho' no Endeavours are wanting for their Recovery, if possible.

This is all the Discovery that hitherto can be made; there being Two or Three more Persons suspected to be Buried in the Rubbish, which cannot be truly known yet. There have been divers Reports, of Ladys and Gentlemen that Perish'd in this woful Disaster, but it is altogether False; such indeed, lay there some days before, but it was their peculiar Blessing to be gone away the very day before. But notwithstanding their happier Deliverance: There have been but too many sufferers in this Dismal Blow; and not a few sad Eyes at so dreadful a Spectacle; and tho' no mans Fate, tho' never so Tragical, but comes by the Peculiar Decree of Heaven: Yet ought this miserable Relation, be no little Warning-piece to the timely Care of other men, in preventing the like Dangers. The Falling of this House being long threatened before it happened, and which, Care and timely Endeavours might have escaped.

This may be Printed, R. P.
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